

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A resist-removing solution for low-k film consisting essentially of 0.01 to ~~10 mass%~~ 5 mass% of hydrogen fluoride (HF), 49 to 99.9 mass% of at least one member selected from the group consisting of organic acids and organic solvents, and 0 to 50 mass% of water.
2. (previously presented): A resist-removing solution according to claim 1, that is free of water.
3. (original): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the solution is used for ultrasonic cleaning.
4. (original): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the low-k film has a dielectric constant greater than 1 but not greater than 3.
5. (original): A removing solution according to claim 1, whereby a SiN film can be etched to a depth of at least 1 Å.
6. (original): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the organic acids or organic solvents have an SP value of 7 to 17.
7. (canceled).
8. (original): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein said at least one member selected from the group consisting of organic acids and organic solvents is organic

acid(s) or a mixture of organic acid(s) and organic solvent(s); and the concentration of HF is in the range of 0.01 to 5 mass %.

9. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein said at least one member selected from the group consisting of organic acids and organic solvents is organic solvent(s).

10. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of HF/organic acid/water is in the range of 0.01 to 5 mass %/ 49 to 99.9 mass %/0 to 50 mass %; and the organic acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, sulfonic acids, and polycarboxylic acids.

11. (original): A removing solution according to claim 10, wherein the monocarboxylic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, isobutyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monofluoroacetic acid, difluoroacetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid,  $\alpha$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\beta$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\gamma$ -chlorobutyric acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, glyoxalic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic acid;

the sulfonic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, and toluenesulfonic acid; and

the polycarboxylic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, tartaric acid, and citric acid.

12. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of HF/organic solvent/water is in the range of 0.01 to ~~10 mass %/49~~ 5 mass %/49 to 99.9 mass %/0 to 50 mass %; and the organic solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of monohydric alcohols, polyols, ketones, amides, nitriles, aldehydes, alkylene glycol monoalkyl ethers, ethers, esters, hydrocarbons, halogen compounds, fluorinated alcohols, phosphate esters, and nitrogen-containing compounds.

13. (canceled).

14. (original): A removing solution according to claim 12, wherein the monohydric alcohols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol (IPA), 1-propanol, 1-butanol, 2-butanol, t-butanol, 2-methyl-1-propanol, 1-pentanol, 1-hexanol, 1-heptanol, 4-heptanol, 1-octanol, 1-nonyl alcohol, 1-decanol, 1-dodecanol, lauryl alcohol, and cyclohexanol, with the proviso that methanol and ethanol are used in combination with other organic solvent(s) or organic acid(s);

the polyols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol, propylene glycol, 2,3-butanediol, and glycerin;

the ketones are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetylacetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, diethyl ketone, and diisobutyl ketone;

the amides are at least one member selected from the group consisting of N-methylformamide, N,N- dimethylformamide, N-methylacetamide, and N,N-dimethylacetamide;

the nitriles are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, propionitrile, butyronitrile, isobutyronitrile, and benzonitrile;

the aldehydes are at least one member selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and propionaldehyde;

the alkylene glycol monoalkyl ethers are at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether and ethylene glycol monoethyl ether;

the ethers are at least one member selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, tetrahydropyran, anisole, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, and diethylene glycol dimethyl ether;

the esters are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, butyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, pentyl acetate, hexyl acetate, methyl propionate, ethyl propionate, propyl propionate, isopropyl propionate, butyl propionate, isobutyl propionate, pentyl propionate, hexyl propionate, methyl butyrate, ethyl butyrate, propyl butyrate, isopropyl butyrate, butyl butyrate, isobutyl butyrate, pentyl butyrate, hexyl butyrate, methyl isobutyrate, ethyl isobutyrate, propyl isobutyrate, isopropyl isobutyrate, butyl isobutyrate, isobutyl isobutyrate, pentyl isobutyrate, hexyl isobutyrate, methyl valerate, ethyl valerate, propyl valerate, isopropyl valerate, butyl valerate, isobutyl valerate, pentyl valerate, hexyl valerate, methyl isovalerate, ethyl isovalerate, propyl isovalerate, isopropyl isovalerate, butyl isovalerate, isobutyl isovalerate, pentyl isovalerate, hexyl isovalerate, methyl caproate, ethyl caproate, propyl caproate, isopropyl caproate, butyl caproate, isobutyl caproate, pentyl caproate, hexyl caproate, methyl caprylate, ethyl caprylate, propyl caprylate, isopropyl

caprylate, butyl caprylate, isobutyl caprylate, pentyl caprylate, hexyl caprylate, methyl octanoate, ethyl octanoate, propyl octanoate, isopropyl octanoate, butyl octanoate, isobutyl octanoate, pentyl octanoate, hexyl octanoate, methyl nonanoate, ethyl nonanoate, propyl nonanoate, isopropyl nonanoate, butyl nonanoate, isobutyl nonanoate, pentyl nonanoate, hexyl nonanoate, methyl decanoate, ethyl decanoate, propyl decanoate, isopropyl decanoate, butyl decanoate, isobutyl decanoate, pentyl decanoate, hexyl decanoate, methyl dodecanoate, ethyl dodecanoate, propyl dodecanoate, isopropyl dodecanoate, butyl dodecanoate, isobutyl dodecanoate, pentyl dodecanoate, hexyl dodecanoate, methyl laurate, ethyl laurate, propyl laurate, isopropyl laurate, butyl laurate, isobutyl laurate, pentyl laurate, hexyl laurate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, pentyl acrylate, hexyl acrylate, monomethyl oxalate, dimethyl oxalate, monoethyl oxalate, diethyl oxalate, monopropyl oxalate, dipropyl oxalate, monobutyl oxalate, dibutyl oxalate, monomethyl succinate, dimethyl succinate, monoethyl succinate, diethyl succinate, monopropyl succinate, dipropyl succinate, monobutyl succinate, dibutyl succinate, monomethyl adipate, dimethyl adipate, monoethyl adipate, diethyl adipate, monopropyl adipate, dipropyl adipate, monobutyl adipate, dibutyl adipate, monomethyl tartrate, dimethyl tartrate, monoethyl tartrate, diethyl tartrate, monopropyl tartrate, dipropyl tartrate, monobutyl tartrate, dibutyl tartrate, monomethyl citrate, dimethyl citrate, monoethyl citrate, diethyl citrate, monopropyl citrate, dipropyl citrate, monobutyl citrate, dibutyl citrate, dimethyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, dipropyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, dipentyl phthalate, dihexyl phthalate, diheptyl phthalate, dioctyl phthalate, dinonyl phthalate, didecyl phthalate, didodecyl phthalate, dimethyl terephthalate, diethyl terephthalate, dipropyl

terephthalate, dibutyl terephthalate, dipentyl terephthalate, dihexyl terephthalate, diheptyl terephthalate, dioctyl terephthalate, dinonyl terephthalate, didecyl terephthalate, didodecyl terephthalate, propylene carbonate, and  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone;

the hydrocarbons are at least one member selected from the group consisting of hexane, cyclohexane, octane, isooctane, benzene, and toluene;

the halogen compounds are at least one member selected from the group consisting of chloroform, o-dichlorobenzene, perfluorohexane, and perfluoromethylcyclohexane;

the fluorinated alcohols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of trifluoroethanol, pentafluoropropanol, and 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropanol;

the phosphate esters are at least one member selected from the group consisting of dimethyl phosphate, dibutyl phosphate, diphenyl phosphate, dibenzyl phosphate, trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, tripropyl phosphate, tributyl phosphate, and triphenyl phosphate; and

the nitrogen-containing compounds are at least one member selected from the group consisting of tetramethylurea and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

15. (withdrawn): A method of removing resist, comprising treating an object having resist on the surface of a low-k film or on an antireflection coating (BARC) over a low-k film, by the use of the removing solution of claim 1 under temperature and time conditions such that the resist can be removed without substantially damaging the low-k film.

16. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 15, comprising an ashing treatment for the resist without substantially damaging the low-k film, before treating the object using the removing solution.

17. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 15, wherein the low-k film is substantially undamaged because the low-k film is substantially unetched and/or the dielectric constant of the low-k film is substantially unchanged before and after the treatment.

18. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 15, comprising treating the object while performing ultrasonic cleaning.

19. (withdrawn): A resist-removed object that can be obtained according to the method of claim 15.

20. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution for a via hole or a capacitor comprising hydrogen fluoride (HF) and at least one member selected from the group consisting of organic acids and organic solvents.

21. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 20, further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of ammonia and amines.

22. (withdrawn): A removing solution according to claim 20, wherein the solution is used for ultrasonic cleaning.

23. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 20, whereby a TiN film can be etched to a depth of at least 0.01 Å.

24. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 20, further comprising water, wherein the weight ratio of HF/organic acid/water is in the range of 0.01 to 5 mass %/ 49

to 99.9 mass %/0 to 50 mass %; and the organic acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, sulfonic acids, and polycarboxylic acids.

25. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 24, wherein the monocarboxylic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, isobutyric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, caprylic acid, monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monofluoroacetic acid, difluoroacetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid,  $\alpha$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\beta$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\gamma$ -chlorobutyric acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, glyoxalic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic acid;

the sulfonic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, trifluoromethanesulfonic acid, and toluenesulfonic acid; and

the polycarboxylic acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of oxalic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, tartaric acid, and citric acid.

26. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 20, further comprising water, wherein the weight ratio of HF/organic solvent/water is in the range of 0.01 to 10 mass %/49 to 99.9 mass %/0 to 50 mass %; and the organic solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of monohydric alcohols, polyols, ketones, amides, nitriles, aldehydes, alkylene glycol monoalkyl ethers, ethers, esters, hydrocarbons, halogen compounds, fluorinated alcohols, phosphate esters, and nitrogen-containing compounds.



27. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 21, wherein the weight ratio of HF/said at least one member selected from the group consisting of ammonia and amines/organic solvent/water is in the range of 0.01 to 10 mass %/0.01 to 30 mass %/49 to 99.9 mass %/0 to 50 mass %; and the organic solvent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of monohydric alcohols, polyols, ketones, amides, nitriles, aldehydes, alkylene glycol monoalkyl ethers, ethers, esters, hydrocarbons, halogen compounds, fluorinated alcohols, phosphate esters, and nitrogen-containing compounds.

28. (withdrawn): A cleaning solution according to claim 26, wherein the monohydric alcohols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, isopropanol (IPA), 1-propanol, 1-butanol, 2-butanol, t-butanol, 2-methyl-1-propanol, 1-pentanol, 1-hexanol, 1-heptanol, 4-heptanol, 1-octanol, 1-nonyl alcohol, 1-decanol, 1-dodecanol, lauryl alcohol, and cyclohexanol;

the polyols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2-propanediol, propylene glycol, 2,3-butanediol, and glycerin;

the ketones are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetone, acetylacetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, diethyl ketone, and diisobutyl ketone;

the amides are at least one member selected from the group consisting of N-methylformamide, N,N- dimethylformamide, N-methylacetamide, and N,N-dimethylacetamide;

the nitriles are at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetonitrile, propionitrile, butyronitrile, isobutyronitrile, and benzonitrile;

the aldehydes are at least one member selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and propionaldehyde;

the alkylene glycol monoalkyl ethers are at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether and ethylene glycol monoethyl ether;

the ethers are at least one member selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, tetrahydropyran, anisole, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, and diethylene glycol dimethyl ether;

the esters are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, butyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, pentyl acetate, hexyl acetate, methyl propionate, ethyl propionate, propyl propionate, isopropyl propionate, butyl propionate, isobutyl propionate, pentyl propionate, hexyl propionate, methyl butyrate, ethyl butyrate, propyl butyrate, isopropyl butyrate, butyl butyrate, isobutyl butyrate, pentyl butyrate, hexyl butyrate, methyl isobutyrate, ethyl isobutyrate, propyl isobutyrate, isopropyl isobutyrate, butyl isobutyrate, isobutyl isobutyrate, pentyl isobutyrate, hexyl isobutyrate, methyl valerate, ethyl valerate, propyl valerate, isopropyl valerate, butyl valerate, isobutyl valerate, pentyl valerate, hexyl valerate, methyl isovalerate, ethyl isovalerate, propyl isovalerate, isopropyl isovalerate, butyl isovalerate, isobutyl isovalerate, pentyl isovalerate, hexyl isovalerate, methyl caproate, ethyl caproate, propyl caproate, isopropyl caproate, butyl caproate, isobutyl caproate, pentyl caproate, hexyl caproate, methyl caprylate, ethyl caprylate, propyl caprylate, isopropyl

caprylate, butyl caprylate, isobutyl caprylate, pentyl caprylate, hexyl caprylate, methyl octanoate, ethyl octanoate, propyl octanoate, isopropyl octanoate, butyl octanoate, isobutyl octanoate, pentyl octanoate, hexyl octanoate, methyl nonanoate, ethyl nonanoate, propyl nonanoate, isopropyl nonanoate, butyl nonanoate, isobutyl nonanoate, pentyl nonanoate, hexyl nonanoate, methyl decanoate, ethyl decanoate, propyl decanoate, isopropyl decanoate, butyl decanoate, isobutyl decanoate, pentyl decanoate, hexyl decanoate, methyl dodecanoate, ethyl dodecanoate, propyl dodecanoate, isopropyl dodecanoate, butyl dodecanoate, isobutyl dodecanoate, pentyl dodecanoate, hexyl dodecanoate, methyl laurate, ethyl laurate, propyl laurate, isopropyl laurate, butyl laurate, isobutyl laurate, pentyl laurate, hexyl laurate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, pentyl acrylate, hexyl acrylate, monomethyl oxalate, dimethyl oxalate, monoethyl oxalate, diethyl oxalate, monopropyl oxalate, dipropyl oxalate, monobutyl oxalate, dibutyl oxalate, monomethyl succinate, dimethyl succinate, monoethyl succinate, diethyl succinate, monopropyl succinate, dipropyl succinate, monobutyl succinate, dibutyl succinate, monomethyl adipate, dimethyl adipate, monoethyl adipate, diethyl adipate, monopropyl adipate, dipropyl adipate, monobutyl adipate, dibutyl adipate, monomethyl tartrate, dimethyl tartrate, monoethyl tartrate, diethyl tartrate, monopropyl tartrate, dipropyl tartrate, monobutyl tartrate, dibutyl tartrate, monomethyl citrate, dimethyl citrate, monoethyl citrate, diethyl citrate, monopropyl citrate, dipropyl citrate, monobutyl citrate, dibutyl citrate, dimethyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, dipropyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, dipentyl phthalate, dihexyl phthalate, diheptyl phthalate, dioctyl phthalate, dinonyl phthalate, didecyl phthalate, didodecyl phthalate, dimethyl terephthalate, diethyl terephthalate, dipropyl

terephthalate, dibutyl terephthalate, dipentyl terephthalate, dihexyl terephthalate, diheptyl terephthalate, dioctyl terephthalate, dinonyl terephthalate, didecyl terephthalate, didodecyl terephthalate, propylene carbonate, and  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone;

the hydrocarbons are at least one member selected from the group consisting of hexane, cyclohexane, octane, isooctane, benzene, and toluene;

the halogen compounds are at least one member selected from the group consisting of chloroform, o-dichlorobenzene, perfluorohexane, and perfluoromethylcyclohexane;

the fluorinated alcohols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of trifluoroethanol, pentafluoropropanol, and 2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropanol;

the phosphate esters are at least one member selected from the group consisting of dimethyl phosphate, dibutyl phosphate, diphenyl phosphate, dibenzyl phosphate, trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate, tripropyl phosphate, tributyl phosphate, and triphenyl phosphate; and

the nitrogen-containing compounds are at least one member selected from the group consisting of tetramethylurea and N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone.

29. (withdrawn): A method of cleaning a via hole, comprising cleaning an object that has a via hole, with at least one member selected from the group consisting of titanium compounds and polymers adhering to at least one member selected from the group consisting of the sidewall and the bottom of the via hole, by the use of the cleaning solution of claim 20.

30. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 29, comprising treating the object while performing ultrasonic cleaning.

31. (withdrawn): A cleaned object that can be obtained according to the method of claim 29.

32. (withdrawn): A method of cleaning a capacitor, comprising cleaning an object that has a metal capacitor upper electrode or lower electrode, with at least one member selected from the group consisting of resist residue, polymers, and titanium compounds adhering to at least one member selected from the group consisting of the sidewall, the bottom, and the surface of the electrode, by the use of the cleaning solution of claim 20.

33. (withdrawn): A method according to claim 32, comprising treating the object while performing ultrasonic cleaning.

34. (withdrawn): A cleaned object that can be obtained according to the method of claim 32.

35. (original): A resist-removing solution according to claim 1, wherein the solution etches, in a treatment time of 0.1 to 120 minutes, (1) an insulating film barrier to a depth of 1 to 200 Å, (2) low-k film to a depth of 1 to 200 Å, and (3) Cu at an etching rate of no more than 10 Å/min; and the solution removes resist, antireflection coating, filling material, and etching residue including these, after dry etching in the formation of damascene and dual damascene structures for Cu/low-k multilevel interconnection.

36. (original): A removing solution according to claim 35, wherein the insulating film barrier and the low-k film are Si-containing compounds such as SiN, SiC, SiCN, SiOC, and SiO<sub>2</sub>.

37. (original): A removing solution according to claim 35, wherein the solution removes residue resulting from etching with a nitrogen-containing etching gas, regardless of whether plasma ashing is conducted or not.

38. (original): A removing solution according to claim 35, wherein the solution removes residue after ashing with a nitrogen-containing gas.

39. (original): A removing solution according to claim 35, wherein one or more inert gases are dissolved in the solution such that the oxygen partial pressure in the solution is below the oxygen partial pressure in air-saturated solution.

40. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting essentially of (i) HF, (ii) a protogenic solvent, and (iii) at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents; wherein the weight ratio of (i) HF (hydrogen fluoride)/(ii) protogenic solvent/(iii) said at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents is in the range of (i) 0.05 to 5 mass %/(ii) 1 to 98.95 mass %/(iii) 1 to 98.95 mass %.

41. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting essentially of (i) HF, (ii) a protogenic solvent, and (iii) at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents, and (iv) water; wherein the weight ratio of (i) HF (hydrogen fluoride)/(ii) protogenic solvent/(iii) said at least one organic compound

selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents/(iv) water is in the range of (i) 0.05 to 5 mass %/(ii) 1 to 98.93 mass %/(iii) 1 to 98.93 mass %/(iv) 0.02 to 90 mass %.

42. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting essentially of (i) HF, (ii) a protogenic solvent, (iii) at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents, (iv) water, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of (v) acids, (vi) polar protophilic solvents having a donor number of at least 25, and (vii) hydrofluoroethers or hydrochlorofluorocarbons; wherein the weight ratio of (i) HF/(ii) protogenic solvent/(iii) said at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, and neutral solvents/(iv) water/(v) acid/(vi) polar protophilic solvent having a donor number of at least 25/(vii) hydrofluoroethers or hydrochlorofluorocarbons is in the range of (i) 0.05 to 5 mass %/(ii) 1 to 98.83 mass %/ (iii) 1 to 98.83 mass %/(iv) 0.02 to 90 mass %/(v) 0 to 10 mass %/(vi) 0 to 50 mass %/(vii) 0 to 70 mass %, with the total amount of acid, polar protophilic solvent having a donor number of at least 25, hydrofluoroethers and hydrochlorofluorocarbons being 0.1 to 74.93 mass %.

43. (canceled).

44. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting essentially of (i) HF, (ii) at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than

24, neutral solvents, and protogenic solvents, and (iii) water; wherein the weight ratio of (i) HF (hydrogen fluoride)/(ii) said at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, neutral solvents, and protogenic solvents/(iii) water is in the range of (i) 0.05 to 5 mass %/(ii) 85 to 99.93 mass %/(iii) 0.02 to 10 mass %.

45. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting ~~essentially~~ of (i) HF, (ii) at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, neutral solvents, and protogenic solvents, (iii) water, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of (iv) acids, (v) polar protophilic solvents having a donor number of at least 25, and (vi) hydrofluoroethers or hydrofluorocarbons; wherein the weight ratio of (i) HF/(ii) said at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of polar protophilic solvents and polar protophobic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, neutral solvents, and protogenic solvents/(iii) water/(iv) acid/(v) polar protophilic solvent having a donor number of at least 25/(vi) hydrofluoroethers or hydrochlorofluorocarbons is in the range of (i) 0.05 to 5 mass %/(ii) 25 to 99.83 mass %/(iii) 0.02 to 10 mass %/(iv) 0 to 10 mass %/(v) 0 to 50 mass %/(vi) 0 to 70 mass %, with the total amount of acid, polar protophilic solvent having a donor number of at least 25, hydrofluoroethers and hydrochlorofluorocarbons being 0.1 to 74.93 mass %.

46. (canceled).



47. (original): A removing solution according to claim 40, wherein the neutral solvents are alcohols; the protogenic solvents are monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and sulfonic acids; and the polar aprotic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24 are esters and ethers; and the polar protophilic solvents having a donor number of at least 25 are esters, ethers, ketones, and acid anhydrides.

48. (original): A removing solution according to claim 47, wherein (I) as the neutral solvents, the alcohols are methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, propanol, isopropanol, t-butanol, allyl alcohol, and ethylene glycol;

(II) as the protogenic solvents, the monocarboxylic acids are formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, isobutyric acid, monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monofluoroacetic acid, difluoroacetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid,  $\alpha$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\beta$ -chlorobutyric acid,  $\gamma$ -chlorobutyric acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, glyoxalic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic acid; the polycarboxylic acids are oxalic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, and citric acid; and the sulfonic acids are methanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, and trifluoromethanesulfonic acid;

(III) as the polar protophilic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24, the esters are tributyl phosphate and trimethyl phosphate; the ethers are 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, diethyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, dimethoxymethane, dimethoxypropane, diethoxymethane, and 1,1-dimethoxyethane;

(IV) as the polar protophobic solvents, the esters are methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, propylene carbonate, ethylene carbonate, ethylene sulfite, and lactone; the ethers are

dioxane, trioxane, and diglyme; the ketones are acetone; and the acid anhydrides are acetic anhydride.

49. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 42, wherein the acids are at least one member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen chloride, hydrogen bromide, hydrogen iodide, aqueous solutions thereof, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and carboxylic acid.

50. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 42, wherein the hydrofluoroethers are  $\text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CF}_3$  or  $\text{CHF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{OCH}_3$ ; and hydrochlorofluorocarbons are  $\text{CH}_3\text{CCl}_2\text{F}$  or  $\text{CClF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{CHClF}$ .

51. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 42, wherein the polar protophilic solvents having a donor number of at least 25 are at least one member selected from the group consisting of amides such as dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, hexamethylphosphoric triamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylurea, N-methylpropionamide, and dimethyl imidazolidinone; and sulfur compounds such as dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, dimethylthioformamide, and N-methylthiopyrrolidone.

52. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 40, wherein the solution comprises a carboxylic acid as a protogenic solvent; and at least one member selected from the group consisting of alcohols as neutral solvents, and esters and ethers as polar aprotic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24.

53. (original): A removing solution according to claim 52, wherein the carboxylic acid is acetic acid.

54. (original): A removing solution according to claim 47, wherein the solution comprises an alcohol as a neutral solvent; and at least one member selected from the group consisting of esters and ethers as polar aprotic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24.

55. (original): A removing solution according to claim 47, wherein the alcohols are at least one member selected from the group consisting of propanol, isopropanol, t-butanol, allyl alcohol, and ethylene glycol.

56. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 40, wherein the solution comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of esters and ethers as polar aprotic solvents having a donor number of no more than 24.

57. (previously presented): A removing solution according to claim 40, wherein the esters are at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, butyl acetate, propylene carbonate, and ethylene carbonate; and the ethers are at least one member selected from the group consisting of 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, trioxane, diglyme, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ethyl ether, tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether, polyethylene glycol dimethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoallyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol butyl ether, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, triethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisopropyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, tripropylene

glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monopropyl ether, and ethylene glycol methyl ethyl ether.

58. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting essentially of HF, acetic acid, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/acetic acid/water is in the range of 0.05 to 5 mass %/85 to 99.93 mass %/0.02 to 10 mass %.

59. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting essentially of HF, isopropanol, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/isopropanol/water is in the range of 1 to ~~7~~5 mass %/88 to 98.5 mass %/0.5 to 5 mass %.

60. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting essentially of HF, acetic acid, isopropanol, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/acetic acid/isopropanol/ water is in the range of 0.05 to ~~6~~5 mass %/1 to 98.93 mass %/1 to 98.85 mass %/0.02 to 12 mass %.

61. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting essentially of HF, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/1,2-dimethoxyethane/water is in the range of 0.50 to 5 mass %/85.00 to 99.3 mass %/0.02 to 10 mass %.

62. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting essentially of HF; at least one member selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, and butyl acetate; and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/said at least one

member selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, and butyl acetate/water is in the range of 0.50 to 5 mass %/85.00 to 99.30 mass %/0.02 to 10 mass %.

63. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting ~~essentially~~ of HF, 1,4-dioxane, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/1,4-dioxane/water is in the range of 0.50 to 5 mass %/85.00 to 99.3 mass %/0.2 to 10 mass %.

64. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting ~~essentially~~ of HF; 1,4-dioxane and at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic anhydride and acetic acid; and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/ 1,4-dioxane and said at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic anhydride and acetic acid/water is in the range of 0.50 to 6 mass %/82.00 to 99.30 mass %/ 0.2 to 12 mass %.

65. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 44, consisting ~~essentially~~ of HF; at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ethyl ether, tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether, polyethylene glycol dimethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoallyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol butyl ether, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, triethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisopropyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, tripropylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monopropyl ether, and ethylene glycol

methyl ethyl ether; and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/said at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol methyl ethyl ether, tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether, polyethylene glycol dimethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoallyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol butyl ether, triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol diethyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, triethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monoisopropyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, tripropylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monopropyl ether, and ethylene glycol methyl ethyl ether/ water is in the range of 0.50 to 5 mass %/85.00 to 99.30 mass %/0.20 to 10 mass %.

66. (currently amended): A removing solution according to claim 35, consisting ~~essentially~~ of HF, methanesulfonic acid, and water; wherein the weight ratio of HF/methanesulfonic acid/water is in the range of ~~more than 0 and not more than 0.01~~ to 5 mass %/at least 45 and less than 100 mass %/more than 0 and not more than 50 mass %.

67. (withdrawn): A removing method comprising removing etching residue while leaving low-k film that has been damaged by a plasma process, by the use of the removing solution of claim 1.

68-73. (canceled).